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SUBJECT: AMERICAN PRESS COVERAGE

1. HIGHLIGHTS. KISSINGER STORIES ARE FRONTPAGED UNDER HEADLINES SAYING US HELPING CAIRO ON SUEZ OPENING. PROMINENT DOMESTIC ITEMS INCLUDE: PRESIDENT'S VIEW OF IMPEACHMENT DISPUTED BY MEMBERS OF HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE; ELLIOT RICHARDSON PREDICTS NO IMPEACHMENT, SAYING IN DALLAS EVIDENCE WON'T SHOW DIRECT CRIMINAL INVOLVEMENT, ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE OF WATERGATE, OR PARTICIPATION IN COVER-UP; KALMBACH SEEN READY TO LINK HALDEMAN TO CAMPAIGN FUNDING; KALMBACH HAS RESIGNED FROM HIS LAW FIRM; JAWORSKI FORECASTS INDICTMENTS THURSDAY OR FRIDAY; EAST COAST GAS CRISIS WORSENS; TOP DEMOCRATS SAY US ENERGY CRISIS HAS NOT SUBSIDED; PAY RISE FOR HILL SET BACK, BUT SENATE COMMITTEE PERMITS RAISES FOR JUDGES AND TOP LEVEL EXECUTIVES.

1A. OTHER INSIDE STORIES INCLUDE: PELL SPONSORS BILL TO HALT US BUILDUP IN INDIAN OCEAN; NIXON HAILS US ROLE IN VIETNAM; AMERICAN SECURITY COUNCIL GROUP TOURING SOUTH VIETNAM CONDEMNS ANTI-SAIGON PROPAGANDA; REP. MAHON SAYS HE

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WAS TOLD 5 BILLIONS ADDED TO DEFENSE BUDGET TO HELP STIMU-

LATE ECONOMY, BUT SCHLESINGER SAYS AMOUNT IS MORE LIKE ONE OR 1.5 BILLION; PATOLICHEV, ANSWERING QUESTION AT NEWS CONFERENCE AT RUSSIAN EMBASSY, GENTLY WARNED RUSSIA MIGHT HAVE

TO TURN TO EUROPE FOR MONEY AND TECHNOLOGY IF US WITHHOLDS CREDITS.

1B. WASHPOST REPORTS FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE APPROVED HOLTON AS CONGRESSIONAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY, EASUM AS AFRICAN, EX-REP. SELDEN AS AMBASSADOR TO NEW ZEALAND, AND FOLLOWING CAREER OFFICERS AS AMBASSADORS: BOLEN FOR BOTSWANA, OSBORN BURMA, KREBA GUYANA, FITTS RWANDA, MANHARD MAURITIUS, PICKERING JORDAN, BOSTER BANGLADESH, HERZ BULGARIA.

2. KISSINGER. WEDNESDAY NYTIMES DAMASCUS GWERTZMAN REPORTS SENIOR US OFFICIAL SAID YESTERDAY THAT TEAM OF US NAVY DEMOLITION EXPERTS HAD BEEN SENT TO SUEZ CANAL AT EGYPT'S REQUEST TO ADVISE CLEARING MINES AND OTHER EXPLOSIVES. NEWSMEN WERE TOLD OF US ACTION--LATEST APPARENT SIGN OF IMPROVEMENT OF EGYPTIAN-US RELATIONS--SHORTLY BEFORE KISSINGER LANDED IN SYRIAN CAPITAL. KISSINGER WILL FLY TO TEL AVIV WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON AND THEN FLY TO CAIRO THURSDAY. HE PLANS RETURN TO ISRAEL FRIDAY TO RECEIVE ISRAELI PLAN FOR DISENGAGEMENT THAT HE WILL PRESENT THAT NIGHT TO SYRIANS IN DAMASCUS. US SENIOR OFFICIAL SAID EGYPTIAN HAD ASKED US FOR TECHNICAL HELP IN CLEARING CANAL SHORTLY AFTER EGYPT AND ISRAEL SIGNED DISENGAGEMENT ON JANUARY 18. REQUEST APPROVED QUICKLY IN WASHINGTON AND SIX-MAN NAVY TEAM ARRIVED 11 DAYS AGO. US OFFICIALS SAID KISSINGER PREPARED TO DISCUSS WITH SADAT NOT ONLY US HELP IN CLEARING CANAL BUT ALSO FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. OFFICIALS SAID THEY WERE AWARE OF IRONY OF INVITATION FOR US NAVY PERSONNEL AFTER RUSSIANS HAD SENT THOUSANDS OF MILITARY ADVISERS TO EGYPT THROUGH YEARS, ADDING THEY REGARDED EGYPTIAN DECISION TO ASK US FOR HELP ANOTHER SIGN CAIRO WAS INTERESTED IN CLOSER RELATIONS WITH US AND WAS WILLING TO RISK IRRITATION OF RUSSIANS. GWERTZMAN SAYS GROMYKO IS TO ARRIVE IN CAIRO FRIDAY. SENIOR OFFICIAL SAID IF SYRIANS AND ISRAELIS ABLE TO WORK OUT DIS-

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ENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT KISSINGER WILL PROBABLY TRY TO GET BOTH PARTIES TO NEGOTIATE FINAL SETTLEMENT RATHER THAN JUST ANOTHER INTERMEDIATE STAGE. IN LONDON KISSINGER MET WITH HEATH AND ALEC DOUGLAS-HOME. KISSINGER PLANS TO VISIT SAUDI ARABIA AND JORDAN BEFORE RETURNING TO WASHINGTON AND HOPES ALSO TO STOP IN BRUSSELS TO BRIEF NATO COUNCIL ON MIDDLE EAST SITUATION, PLANNING TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON BY MONDAY NIGHT.

2A. WASHPOST DAMASCUS BERGER REPORTS SENIOR OFFICIALS TRAVELING WITH KISSINGER INDICATED IF SECRETARY RECEIVES POW LIST AS EXPECTED, HE WOULD GIVE IT TO GOLDA MEIR BE-

FORE DISCLOSING THAT SYRIANS HAD HANDED IT OVER. US OFFICIALS RELUCTANT TO EXPRESS OPTIMISM, DESPITE REPORT SYRIANS PREPARED TO PROVIDE LIST, BECAUSE THEY SAID THEY DO NOT KNOW WHAT CONDITIONS MIGHT BE ATTACHED TO ITS RELEASE BY DAMASCUS. OFFICIALS SAID IT WAS NOT CLEAR WHETHER KISSINGER WILL BE ABLE TO GO TO SAUDI ARABIA BECAUSE OF SCHEDULING DIFFICULTIES, BUT SAID ANY STOP IN RIYADH WOULD BE IN NATURE OF SIMPLE COURTESY CALL BECAUSE KISSINGER SAID TO HAVE NO BUSINESS TO CONDUCT THERE AT PRESENT TIME. HIGH OFFICIAL TRAVELING WITH KISSINGER SPOKE MORE CAUTIOUSLY ABOUT OIL EMBARGO THAN NIXON. AT HEATHROW AIRPORT TODAY KISSINGER WAS ASKED WHETHER THERE IS DEADLINE FOR TERMINATION OF EMBARGO, BEYOND WHICH HE WOULD SUSPEND EFFORTS TO GET MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT AS SUGGESTED BY NIXON. KISSINGER SAID WE HAVE NO PRECISE DATE IN MIND, ADDING PRESIDENT HAD BEEN SPEAKING GENERALLY TO INDICATE THAT VARIOUS EFFORTS SUPPORT EACH OTHER, THAT PROGRESS TOWARDS PEACE WILL SPELL PROGRESS TOWARD LIFTING EMBARGO. US OFFICIALS CONTINUED TAKE POSITION THAT PEACE EFFORTS WERE INDEPENDENT OF EMBARGO CONSIDERATIONS BECAUSE DISENGAGEMENT OF SYRIAN AND ISRAELI FORCES IS DESIRABLE ON OWN MERITS, ADDING WITHOUT DISENGAGEMENT FIGHTING COULD EXPLODE AGAIN DRAGGING REST OF MIDDLE EAST INTO WAR.

3. VIET-NAM. WASHPOST KILPATRICK REPORTS PRESIDENT NIXON AT CABINET ROOM CEREMONY PROCLAIMING MARCH 29 AS VIETNAM VETERANS DAY SAID 250 MILLION PEOPLE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA UNCLASSIFIED

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HAVE CHANCE TO REMAIN FREE BECAUSE OF AMERICA'S SACRIFICES IN VIETNAM, ADDING 17 MILLIONS IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND 7 MILLION IN CAMBODIA WOULD OTHERWISE HAVE NOW BEEN UNDER COMMUNIST CONTROL AND MALAYSIA SINGAPORE INDONESIA THAILAND WOULD BE IN MUCH GREATER DANGER OF AGGRESSION.

3A. WASHPOST REPORTS A STUDY BY AMERICAN SECURITY COUNCIL WHICH STATES REAL STRUGGLE FOR SOUTH VIETNAM IN FUTURE IS LIKELY TO TAKE PLACE IN CONGRESS RATHER THAN ON BATTLEFIELD. STUDY GROUP WAS HEADED BY FORMER AMBASSADOR ALLISON AND INCLUDED DURBROW; IT LAUNCHED A COUNTER CAMPAIGN AGAINST A SMALL MINORITY OF CRITICS WHO SEEK TO CUT OFF ALL US AID. SOUTH VIETNAM, ACCORDING TO COUNCIL, STANDS ON THE THRESHOLD OF VIABILITY AND FOR FIRST TIME THERE ARE SIGNS THAT A NATION IS EMERGING.

3B. NYTIMES UPI REPORT REPEATS ABOVE AND ADDS THAT REPORT DENIES COUNTRY IS POLICE STATE WITH MORE THAN 200,000 POLITICAL PRISONERS. REPORT CITES EXHAUSTING AND PAINSTAKING ANALYSIS BY US EMBASSY SOURCES THAT SHOW ONLY

35,139 PRISONERS WITH NO EVIDENCE OF MISTREATMENT. REPORT CONCLUDES CONGRESS SHOULD SCRUTINIZE THE OUTPOURING OF PROPAGANDA TO DETERMINE ANY ULTERIOR MOTIVE AND WHETHER THE PURVEYORS SHOULD REGISTER AS FOREIGN AGENTS.

3C. WASHPOST LOCAL REPORTS 46 SENATORS JOINED IN SPONSORING A SENATE RESOLUTION URGING EVERY POSSIBLE DIPLOMATIC EFFORT TO OBTAIN RELEASE OF US NEWSMEN WHO MAY STILL BE PRISONERS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, SEN. BUCKLEY SAYING 21 CORRESPONDENTS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS ARE LISTED AS MISSING IN CAMBODIA. CASEY

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